Argentina authorizes new herbicide-resistant GMO soybean seeds

Argentina authorized on Friday [Nov. 24] the use of genetically modified soybean seeds resistant to herbicides other than glyphosate, as the European Union (EU) debates whether to extend the license of weed-killers containing the ingredient.

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In a statement, the Agriculture Ministry said the SYN-000H2-5 seed needed different herbicides which had not raised health concerns around the world. Syngenta AG and Bayer AG had requested government approval for the seed.

"This is of great importance given the rise of resistant weeds and other potential limitations to the use of the glyphosphate herbicide," the Ministry said.

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It was not clear if a potential glyphosate ban in Europe would impact shipments of soy-based products from Argentina, Gustavo Lopez, director of Buenos Aires-based consultancy Agritrend, told Reuters.

Argentina shipped 7.5 million tonnes of soybean meal to European countries in the first nine months of 2017, data from government statistics agency Indec show. The country's producers are expected to plant 16.8 million hectares of soybeans for the 2017-18 crop.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: Argentina permits new soybean seed as EU debates weed-killer glyphosate